

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-17, 20, 23-30, 32-34 remain in the application. Claims 21 and 31 have been canceled.

All of the claims have been amended such that it is now more clear that a network is required for communication among and between all VPs and any UIs.

In response to the Examiner's "Response to Arguments" of 03/14/06, the Examiner continues to assert that Meyer teaches a plurality of vision processors (vision systems).

Meyer clearly states that there is only one vision system in Fig. 2, referred to as the machine vision system 20 (col. 4, line 8). This machine vision system has an image digitizer / frame grabber 22 that can also include a vision processor (col. 4, lines 36-37). Thus, there is only ONE vision processor that provides vision processing to ONE vision system.

The vision system has a plurality of cameras, one digital camera, and three analog cameras. However, it's well-known for a vision system to have more than one camera. Nevertheless, a vision system with multiple cameras is still considered to be a single vision system.

The Examiner states that "Fig. 2 shows that a single digital camera 24 is equivalent to the analog cameras 24 and the image digitizer / frame grabber 22, as the feed from the digital camera need not go through the image digitizer / frame grabber or vision processor board 22". However, this is FALSE, since signals from the digital camera can easily reach the vision processor board 22 via the system bus 26. It's clear that a digital camera does NOT have a vision processor board or its equivalent (otherwise the digital camera would be called a "vision system", and so signals from the digital camera must be sent to the vision processor board 22 via the system bus 26 so that the images captured by the digital camera can be processed.

In short, one of average skill in the art of machine vision would look at Fig. 2, and see one possible vision processor, and multiple CAMERAS. Just as a dog with four tails is still called a "dog", and would NOT be considered four dogs, a vision system with four cameras is still just ONE vision system.

Regarding the Examiner's citing of the single Visual Basic toolbox as being "at least one user interface being on a UI computing platform", the claims have been amended to require communication over a network between a UI and a VP. Meyer does not disclose a network, merely disclosing a system bus 26. One of average skill in the art of computers knows that a system bus is

INTERNAL to a computer, allowing components of the computer to communicate among each other, while a network is EXTERNAL to a computer, interconnecting the computer to other computers.

Accordingly, referring to amended claim 1, for example, the at least one machine vision UI on a machine vision computing platform connected to the network is NOT taught by Meyer, although it is now claimed in amended claim 1. Although Meyer may include UI, the UI is part of the same computer system 20 that includes a possible vision processor board 22. Since they are part of the same computer, they communicate over a system bus 26 within the computer 20. Meyer is silent on ANY communication over a network between a VP and a UI, as is claimed in all of the remaining claims.

Van Dort also is silent on devices communicating via a network, instead teaching an internal communication channel 10, such as a wired bus (col. 9, lines 49-57). Thus, combining Meyer and Van Dort would NOT provide Applicant's invention.

Note that making more clear that the VPs and UIs of Applicant's invention communicate via a network also makes it more clear that there must be distinct VPs and at least a distinct UI, each on a respective platform that is connected to the network.

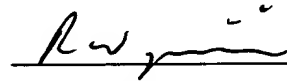
Appl. No. 09/873,163
Amdt. dated July 14, 2006
Reply to Office action of 03/14/2006

With the amendments adding the requirement of network communication,
the rejections of the claims are deemed to be overcome.

Accordingly, Applicants assert that the present application is in condition
for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited
to phone the undersigned attorney to further the prosecution of the present
application.

Respectfully Submitted,

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